

Lake Whatcom Public Meeting - Bellingham
September 22, 2003

Summary of comments (from flip chart notes and hearing tape)

Mayor Mark Asmundson
City of Bellingham
2626 Ontario St., Bellingham

Landscape committee did outstanding job, we are grateful for that work. Lake Whatcom Management Committee implements the watershed protection plan, focusing on quality of water for today and the future. As largest landowner in the watershed, what DNR does is critical, so City believes the IJC should be continued as part of implementation. Also, the process used in developing the plan should be continued, and technical resources be available to local government to comment on proposals for harvest. Insure funding for the future implementation through resources generated in the watershed.

Ward Nelson,
3369 Agate Bay Lane
Bellingham, WA

Lake Whatcom Forestry Forum has looked at many of these issues and and provided input into management plans. Would like to see an IJC that includes not only environmental and local government but also foresters with expertise and advice to protect the watershed. 25 percent of the rest of the land in Lake Whatcom watershed is in small/large forestry. LWFF has formalized their position through Lake Whatcom Management Committee to provide greater input to those who will make decisions. Want to see preservation of forestry in the watershed and avoid the greater problems to water safety and quality associated with human development.

Joan Casey
1015 W. Toledo
Bellingham

Does water quality have to do with entire body of the reservoir or simply streams on DNR land? Prof. Flora of WWU said water quality all depends on the diversion of water from the middle fork Nooksack River. Without the diversion of the Nooksack into the lake there is further degradation. ESA requires measurement of how much water we can take. Build-out, pesticides, etc. all affect quality. What about the mandate to safeguard the water for people of Whatcom County?

Dave Scott
348 Sudden Valley
Bellingham, WA

For Sudden Valley Board: PDEIS Alternatives 4 and 5 not included in the DEIS. We reject the Preferred Alternative and support Alternative 3, which in their opinion gives a reasonable level of watershed and homeowner protection. Personally, believes DNR thinks it must cut as much

time as possible to comply with fiduciary responsibility and is an unwilling partner. Committee majority against Preferred Alternative and for Alternative 3 would carry a strong message and far more weight to Board of Natural Resources.

John B. Wolfe
518 Sudden Valley
Bellingham, WA

None of these options address Sudden Valley Association's preferred option. Our preferred option is no logging. Urged support for PDEIS Alternative 4, but Alternatives 4 and 5 have disappeared from the DEIS. Also want to express support for continuing the IJC.

Bill Vert
827 Sudden Valley
Bellingham, WA

Some time ago a letter appeared in the Herald suggesting that the muddy water flowing into Lake from Austin Creek was fault of Sudden Valley. This followed a Lookout Mountain harvest, and the speaker followed up Austin Creek and traced mud to Beaver Creek, up more creeks to the area of a previous logging site on Lookout Mountain. He wrote a letter to the Herald to this effect. DNR said the mud originated at a landslide. Concerned that the map for Preferred Alternative does not show Beaver Creek headwaters as a mass wasting area.

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Whatcom County Council
6879 Raspberry Dr.
Everson, WA

Concerned that higher rate of logging will be done than what was analyzed in the PDEIS. Encourages support of an IJC composed of representatives of city of Bellingham, County, tribes, Water District 10 and citizens to participate with DNR in implementation of landscape plan. The IJC should have authority over plans they deem too risky to the watershed. They should be involved in the decision making with DNR. Stakeholder involvement is critical. Need funds for technical resources.

Lisa Mc Shane
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance
1208 Bay St. Suite 201
Bellingham, WA

Managing well in watershed is important. Page 125 financial analysis shows increase in logging in first two decades but management plan for that wasn't analyzed in the DEIS; we ask that that be addressed. Look at actual management plan for impacts. No harvest on unstable slopes – yet the Preferred Alternative allows logging on ARS #1. Subsurface diagonal drilling for oil and gas exploration should not be allowed. Either have no logging on potentially unstable slopes or a

strong IJC with independent scientists with the authority to stop activities on roads and potentially unstable slopes.

Dennis Jones
1487 Sudden Valley
Bellingham, WA

Austin Creek/Beaver Creek has serious silting problem. The extension of the shoal has serious problem. Thanks to the committee for your work, but unfortunately haven't moved from the legislation. We haven't gotten very far. This is water source for community. The IJC is important. Keep working on it.

Dave Paulsen
3310 32nd St.
Bellingham, WA 98229

Saving the forest can keep water clean and reduce water treatment costs – i.e., City of New York will save \$8 billion over 10 years by investing in watershed improvements rather than a new treatment plant. Clearcutting under Preferred Alternative concerns him. There are significant savings by forest filtering. Not just cuts on supposedly potentially unstable slopes is a concern; forecast on climate change says up to 25% of forests in Pacific Northwest could disappear due to global warming. Lessening use of natural resources and moving to sustainable economy is attainable today. Short-term logging profits should not overshadow long-term interests of the community. If any logging at all is allowed, it should follow sustainability guidelines as used by River Farms and Van Zandt in their agreement with Crown Pacific. Sustainability and certified forests (by International Forest Stewardship Council) are key. Economic projections need to be looked at, more than for dollars from resource extraction but also the long term costs of cleanup, health effects and providing clean air and water.

Steve Reed
PO Box 29292
Bellingham, WA 98228

Regarding cultural resources impacts analysis: beauty and spirituality, religious inspiration should be primary considerations. A clearcut is a big, ugly, ecologically devastated, denuded eyesore where every or nearly every tree has been removed. Regardless of the euphemisms land managers have, we know a clearcut when we see it. Don't do it again: no more clearcuts. Why do we need to repeat ourselves – when will our land managers get it?

Lori Hansen
419 Lakeside Drive
Bellingham, WA

Preferred Alternative allows the least protection. It maximizes income over protection and the environment. Alternative 1 is a no-go. Alternative 2 is not a balanced compromise. Preferred

Alternative does not protect homeowners in Glenhaven - I live in an area where landslides are a historical fact. Only choosing one end of the spectrum – give us something that reflect the whole spectrum. Prefers Alternative 3 at a minimum.

Joseph Dillman
4014 Lakeside Drive
Sedro Woolley WA 98284

Don't see benefit of Reed Lake being included in the Lake Whatcom watershed – none of our water goes into Lake Whatcom. The unstable slopes on the other side of the hills will lead to deaths, and there will be deaths. What are the processes for remuneration?

Bob Wiesen
3314 Douglas Rd.
Ferndale, WA 98284

Amazed that people in Sudden Valley are so upset – the people living there have the greatest impact. Important to use the plan that allows most timber harvest. Timber harvest under current standards will have less impact on water quality than most other activities in the watershed. Seattle and Tacoma have logged in their drinking water watershed for years; Seattle stopped recently because of political, not scientific, impacts. Studies have shown increased harvest increases water quantity. There are tax implications – 46% revenue reduction gets passed on to entire county. Reduced harvest could have significant economic impacts for county because of lost jobs and viability of the Everson Mill.

Mary Ellen Spink
1900 N. Shore Rd.
Bellingham, WA

I take my water directly out of the lake and run it through ultraviolet system; put no chlorine in it. As a 40 year resident, I do not scientifically understand the hysteria in the past five years over the water's condition and safety. The scientists who manage the water don't seem to think there is a problem – haven't said the water quality is dangerous to health. The Lake has been a working, residential and recreational lake. The scientists and managers have not said the water is dangerous, they've said the water quality has changed. The governor has noted the tax concern.

The problem around Sudden Valley is not silt, it's human excrement. That is what needs to be addressed – go after Sudden Valley sewer system. The concern about the taxes and the tax base is not being addressed by those who are creating the hysteria about the water quality problem.

Mindy Newby
2297 Mt. Baker Highway

Missed early part of the meeting but heard you say helicopter logging is not feasible, so I assume that selective logging is not economically viable. I understand most of watershed has unstable slopes - don't know how you could consider clearcutting. Saddened by the view of Stewart

Mountain, with trees gone. Feel that all three alternatives are bad and unacceptable, opposes clearcutting anywhere, and fears another debris flood like that in 1983.

Rose Oliver
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance
1208 Bay St.
Bellingham, WA

Important that everyone write comments on the DEIS. There will be two comment-writing parties coming up. Attend and get questions answered and provide comments.

Ted Smith (symbol on sign-in sheet)
2405 Victor St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

DEIS section on animals/plants talks about extirpated species that might have occurred in this landscape. Creatures deserve to be represented – they impact our own lives and are extinct partly because of logging in the last hundred years. We could miss actual living-and-dying process – people sometimes don't see the impacts of their actions. We're living in an ecosphere, not an economic statement.

Marian Bedill
3600 Seeley St.
Bellingham, WA

I adopt and support the comments offered by Lisa McShane and Dave Paulsen. Enforcement: Facilitate public reporting of later perceived problems and publicize well the reports and the actions taken afterwards by the agency. Show clearly the amount per capita from each Whatcom tax payer equivalent to the lost revenue if no harvesting took place. The life of the land is perpetuated by the life living within it. Hawaii's motto: Life of the land is perpetuated by living in right relationship with it.

Richard Gilda
2727 Jensen Rd.
Bellingham, WA

Have lived in Lake Whatcom watershed since 1965 on a small tree farm. Clearcuts have benefits and in certain places are the best way to go: clearcuts create habitat for falcons and eagles to catch rodents, which they can't do in a full canopy forest. Even frogs and salamanders benefit. Riparian zones – 15-20 years ago there were frog ponds along rights of way, but as the cottonwoods have grown I've noticed ponds and wetlands drying up. Preferred Alternative is pretty fair but would like it to be closer to the No Action Alternative. People should know about the benefits to wildlife from logging, this is not just about clearcuts and water quality. People are using ecology as a way of growth management.